

THREE COUNT

Professional Wrestling Newsletter
by Alex Marvez

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Havoc highlights: Luger pins Simmons; Dangerously returns: Rude debuts

In the main event of a surprisingly good pay-per-view show, Lex Luger pinned Ron Simmons to defend the World Championship Wrestling title Oct. 27 at Halloween Havoc, held before an estimated crowd of 8,000 (4,000 paid) at UTC Arena in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The following is an analysis of each match, with a summary of the show at the end:

1) Sting-El Gigante-The Steiner Brothers defeated Cactus Jack-Abdullah the Butcher-Big Van Vader-The Diamond Studd in a Chamber of Horrors match -- an apt title for wrestling purists (like me) who hate this sort of garbage. The heavily hyped Chamber was merely the steel cage from the Thunderdome match of Havoc '89 with some additional gimmicks, like coffins in each corner of the cage, kendo sticks and chains on the side of the cage. As hastily explained by WCW ring announcer Gary Cappeta, the way to win the match was by sticking an opponent in an electric chair that was lowered from the ceiling at the 5:00 mark of the match, and pulling an electric switch on the side of the cage.

Before the match, an angle was shown where Barry Windham got his wrist slammed in a car door by The Enforcers while driving with Dustin Rhodes to the arena. Windham legitimately shattered his wrist last Tuesday in a match while administering a bulldog headlock, and is expected to be out of action for eight months. The angle looked good, even though the door was slammed on Windham's forearm and Windham wasn't even feuding with The Enforcers at the time. There was no reason given for Cactus Jack taking Oz's place in the match (even though it makes more sense in current WCW storylines). The Studd was the only wrestler on the heel side who appeared as originally billed.

When wrestlers were introduced, they passed through a graveyard setting with tombstones. The only notable tombstone read "Minn. Twins." I'm proud of WCW for not using the epitaphs to insult the WWF or newsletter writers. I was waiting for a tombstone to read, "Here lies Dave (Meltzer); His writing dug him a grave."

The first five minutes of the match were filled with good brawling, with Jack juicing after a coffin door Sting threw in the air landed on his head. Some wrestler in a black hood popped out of one of the coffins with no purpose but to hit people (he was quickly handcuffed to the cage and rendered useless). At the 5:00 mark, the cage was lowered and everybody temporarily stopped fighting (which made the match look like a work).

The match dragged over the next 10 minutes, with the only highlights being Scott Steiner administering a DDT to Jack from the top rope (Steiner did not wear a heavy brace around his torn left triceps, but a black band), Jack being thrown over the top rope and into the cage three feet away from the ring and some of the babyface wrestlers getting stuck in the chair (but no heel was near the switch). WCW also employed a gizmo called the Refer-eye camera (similar to the Helmet-cam of World League of American football fame; Nick Patrick wore a black helmet on his head containing the

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camera), which got old real quick, and had "ghouls" (preliminary wrestlers wearing white powder face paint) come to ringside with a stretcher (presumably to cart out the losing wrestler).

The finish came when **Rick Steiner** was thrown in the chair by **Abby**, and Jack climbed the cage toward the switch. After almost one minute of stalling (in which Jack looked ridiculous waiting to throw the switch), Steiner stuck Abby in the chair and fastened wrist and neck shackles around him. Jack "accidentally" threw the switch (finally). The lights dimmed and fireworks went off, making it look like Abby was being electrocuted. The 30-second sequence looked neat and Abby sold it well. I understand there were supposed to be some more pyrotechnics, but they didn't work. Some of the ring apron also caught on fire, but that was quickly stamped out by Patrick. After Jack revived Abby, the Butcher went storming out of the chair and beat up the ghouls en route to the dressing room.

Then came an interview with **Craig Bishoff** (dressed like a vampire) and **Missy Hyatt** (dressed like an overweight Las Vegas showgirl) and **The Young Pistols**. The Pistols turned heel by ragging on **The Patriots** and challenging them for the U.S. tag-team titles.

2) **P.N. News-Big Josh** defeated **The Creatures** when News pinned Creature I after a splash off the top rope. The most exciting part of this match was **The Creatures** introduction, because they did not emerge dressed like **The Hunchbacks**. Originally, it was believed the duo would wear costumes with hunched shoulders, thus becoming difficult to defeat (because their shoulders were round, they could never be pinned). Instead, **The Creatures** (not sure of their identity yet, but they weren't green; will have next issue) wore reptile-colored masks and pants. Not a bad match, but not too great.

3) **Bobby Eaton** pinned **Terrence Taylor** after administering the Alabama Jam. A fantastic match, with Taylor and Eaton wisely given 15 minutes to do their thing. Highlights were Eaton jumping from the top rope onto the entrance ramp to give Taylor a knee drop, and Taylor delivering the Tiger driver (double-armed suplex into a power bomb) on the ramp. I wonder, though. It only took **Van Hammer** two minutes to

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defeat Taylor at the last Clash of the Champions, so I guess he's seven-times better than Eaton.

4) **Johnny B. Badd** pinned **Jimmy Garvin**. **Michael Hayes** emerged from the dressing room covered in Atlanta Braves paraphernalia and with his arm in a sling. WCW announcer **Jim Ross** said Hayes claimed an arm injury, which was funny because Hayes used his arm freely throughout the match to cheer and hit Badd. This was the best match I've seen Badd in, and the best I've seen Garvin in, in a long time. Garvin hip dropped Badd from the ring onto the floor. The only badly missed move was Badd attempting his off-the-top-rope sunset flip onto Garvin, who was almost halfway across the ring. Badd broke his nose on the maneuver, but was able to salvage some of the move. Finish came when Garvin had Badd pinned after a great DDT, but the referee was distracted by **Theodore R. Long**. Badd recovered, connected with his knockout punch and pinned Garvin after Long knocked his foot off the bottom rope. After the match, Hayes gave Long a DDT.

Then came an interview where Hyatt said she was looking for the Halloween Phantom and stopped Eaton, who was carrying a pumpkin. Eaton said he was on his way to celebrate and looked at the pumpkin. Classic. There was also a plug for "Battle Bowl: The Lethal Lottery" on the Starrcade pay-per-view show Dec. 29. There is talk of a Luger vs. Sting match being added to the show, but that would be a mistake, because the cable television advertisements have already been sent out.

5) **Dustin Rhodes** and "Stunning" **Steve Austin** went to a 15-minute time limit draw. This was another great match. Both wrestlers bled. Fans are really into Dustin, not because of his dad but his natural charisma and great work rate. The match ended when Austin took a 360-degree bump off a Rhodes clothesline from the top rope. Rhodes went for the pin, but Austin kicked out at 2 3/4 seconds as time expired.

6) **Bill Kazmaier** made Oz submit to a backbreaker. It was awful, but short. There was no crowd reaction to either wrestler.

7) **Van Hammer** pinned **Doug Sommers** in another short and awful bout. Hammer's fan reaction is already dying down. There were more missed moves in this match than well-executed

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ones. Sommers looks like he's 90 years old. I understand WCW removed Hayes from this match, because they feared he would receive a better crowd response than Hammer.

8) Flyin' Brian Pillman pinned **Richard Morton** to become the first WCW junior heavyweight champion. Before the match were two interesting interviews with Pillman and Morton. Pillman claimed this was the most important match he's ever had (what ever happened to those world title bouts with **Ric Flair**?) and **Alexandra York** said Morton was going to win the York Foundation's first title (I guess she forgot when her trio of Morton, **Thomas Rich** and **Taylor** won the WCW six-man titles a few weeks back). I know this junior heavyweight division is doomed, because it's treated with no respect. Patrick wore the Refer-eye gizmo again, which looked like a black bonnet. A bunch of camera shots were missed (including the pinfall) because the Refer-eye was used. The new title belt looks smaller than all the others. Only an average match.

9) **The Halloween Phantom** debuted and destroyed **Tom Zenk** in about two minutes. It would be difficult to tell the Phantom was **Rick Rude** if his identity was unknown before the bout (almost every insider knew, but I still think WCW fans were shocked the group could actually sign a top-name talent). WCW announcer **Tony Schiavone**, though, pulled a boner when he said The Phantom's neckbreaker finisher was reminiscent of The Rude Awakening. It spoiled the surprise return of **Paul E. Dangerously** later in the show.

10) **The Enforcers** defeated **The Patriots** to retain the WCW tag-team titles. This was the best I've seen **The Patriots** look thus far. **Todd Champion** seems to be quickly growing more muscular and defined. (I wonder why?) The finish came when **Chip** bumped into **Larry Zbyszko** bouncing off the ropes, and stumbled into an **Arn Anderson** spinebreaker for the pin. The crowd popped very loud for the finish.

What followed was the highlight of the evening. **Bishoff** introduced **Dangerously**, who explained how he had been fired by WCW's steering committee. **Dangerously**, who was accompanied by **Medusa Macelli**, said he still had a manager's license, and was going to tear

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WCW down by eliminating its top stars (**Sting** and **The Steiners**). The Phantom was then brought out, who unmasked as **Rude** (with new entrance music). He then did a great interview insulting **Sting**. **Rude** may be a real pump of life into WCW (if used properly). More on **Dangerously** in WCW news later this issue.

11) **Luger** defeated **Simmons** in a two-of-three fall match to retain the WCW title. When **Luger** was introduced, gold letters spelling his name were lowered from the ceiling. This looked awful, as the letters were uneven and crooked.

WCW, though, should be given credit for making this appear like a serious match (something lacking in the **Windham-Luger** match at the **Baltimore Bash**). The pre-match instructions were miked, and the instructions given to each wrestler by their respective manager (**Harley Race** to **Luger**, **Dusty Rhodes** to **Simmons**) between falls added legitimacy.

The first fall lasted less than five minutes, with **Simmons** completely dominating and pinning **Luger** with a spinebuster. **Luger** favored his back throughout the second fall, but won via disqualification when he charged toward **Simmons** and went sailing over the top rope (**Patrick** ruled **Simmons** intentionally threw **Luger** over the top rope). **Race** held **Simmons'** trunks to insure he wouldn't fly over the top rope. The sequence didn't look good, but a quick explanation by **Schiavone** cleared the matter up nicely. **Rhodes** also knocked **Race** around when he tried to interfere on **Luger's** behalf. The match ended when **Simmons** and **Luger** went outside the ring. **Simmons** missed a football charge into the steel ring post where **Luger** was situated. **Luger** rolled **Simmons** into the ring, administered a piledriver and pinned him (yes, a clean pinfall for a heel champion). **Simmons** showed no effects of the severely sprained wrist tendon that had sidelined him two weeks prior to the match.

Overall, I give the show a 6.5 out of 10. It was entertaining, and the matches were pretty good. However, nothing on this show makes sense when compared to WCW's road shows in November. I also expect the buy rate of this show to be WCW's lowest ever behind the **Japanese Super Special** earlier this year. The crowd mixing was the best I've ever heard for a WCW show, and the place was packed and fans rabid.

WWF

A lineup has been finalized for the WWF's Dec. 3 pay-per-view show emanating from the 10,500-seat Freeman Coliseum. **Hulk Hogan vs. The Undertaker** is the main event, which basically confirms Hogan is losing the WIFE title to The Taker Nov. 27 at Survivor Series. Matches on the undercard are **Ric Flair vs. Roddy Piper**, **Sid Justice vs. Jake Roberts**, **The Big Boss Man-Virgil vs. Ted DiBiase-Irwin R. Shyster** and **Bret Hart vs. The Skinner**. Cost is \$12.95, and there are currently no plans for a campy title for the show.

Obviously, Justice will be replaced in that match, most likely by **Randy Savage**. The WIFE, though, continues to announce Justice as appearing in main events at upcoming live shows, even though he will miss the next three months with a torn triceps. I had a story in Wednesday's *Miami Herald* blasting the WWF's decision not to acknowledge the injury until an interview with Justice airs the weekend of Nov. 9. Mr. Madness (Savage) will replace Justice at the live shows.

Flair and Hogan had their first match ever Oct. 25 in Oakland. Flair pinned Hogan after hitting him with brass knuckles, but referee **Hebner** emerged from the back and told the in-ring official of the Nature Boy's chicanery. The decision was then reversed. Flair then attacked Hogan and placed him in the figure-four leg-lock for a while. Hogan had to be carried from the ring. I heard the match was very good.

Members of the World Bodybuilding Federation will be at Penrod's in Miami Beach Nov. 9 as Titan Sports tapes the opening for its new show, **Body Stars**. WIFE spokesman **Steve Planamenta** said the show will be the Entertainment Tonight of bodybuilding.

Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat has quit the WIFE, apparently unhappy about the lack of a promised main-event push. **Pat Tanaka** has also left the WIFE, and opened a wrestling school in Tampa (more info. on that in an upcoming issue). Tanaka will wrestle **Tommy Rodgers** Nov. 23 at a Suncoast Pro Wrestling show in Bradenton, Fla.

The WWF's public relations department outmaneuvered WCW once again. WCW was finally able to garner some mainstream media attention Oct. 21 by offering Minnesota Twins first

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baseman **Kent Hrbek** a job as a professional wrestler -- an item that ran in many newspapers nation-wide. However, WCW attempts to get match-maker **Dusty Rhodes** on CBS's pregame show the next day were turned down. Instead, CBS ran a pre-taped interview with **Randy Savage**, who discussed Hrbek's disputed tag of Atlanta's **Ron Gant** in Game Two of the series.

WCW

The things **Paul E. Dangerously** said Oct. 27 at Halloween Havoc had some legitimacy to them. Dangerously, who was suspended three weeks ago for allegedly leaking a future WCW storyline, threatened the company with a lawsuit for suspending him. He held a news conference at the China Club in New York City last Friday, stating WCW had 72 hours to re-instate him or else they would be served with a lawsuit. For the conference, Dangerously received "gifts of support," a gold record album and a jersey, from comedian **Andrew Dice Clay** and New York Giants linebacker **Lawrence Taylor**.

WCW made the concession -- sort of. They brought Dangerously back, but have not settled on a new contract with him for managing (his last contract, which was more than six figures, was exclusively for announcing). I also understand, from an anonymous source, that Dangerously wants some say in the development of his character, which may not be easy to get. Should Dangerously and WCW not reach an agreement, expect **Medusa Macelli** to manage **Rick Rude** and **The Enforcers**.

A meeting of event coordinators is scheduled for Oct. 29 in Atlanta. I didn't have the details at press time, but I understand **Ron West** and Indiana coordinator **Don Redman** were to be fired, and **Don Glass** was to be re-assigned.

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Spotlight on: Eddie Gilbert

This is part two of a three-part interview with Eddie Gilbert, the current Global Wrestling Federation television champion. In this segment, Gilbert discusses why he didn't accept an offered job in WCW last August and the circumstances of Paul E. Dangerously getting fired.

AM: Why didn't you premiere in WCW as planned a few months back?

EG: I was set to premiere again Aug. 5. (WCW assistant match-maker) **Terry Allen** called me a few weeks before, and told me I'd be coming in as a heel to work with **Brian Pillman** in the light heavyweight division. I was very happy to be coming back as a heel. A week later, the week before I was supposed to start, (WCW announcer) **Jim Ross** called me and gave me a big, long lecture. He told me I'd have to come back and do everything I'm told, or else I'd be disciplined. Last year when I left, I was doing everything I was told anyway, so I didn't understand why he had called. Then he started telling me how they were going to have me and **Cactus Jack** work on some of their TV shows, because me and **Cactus** had just finished working a run of good matches in Philadelphia. That worried me, because it would be very handy for them to tell us not to brawl into the crowd because it was TV. That's what the basis of our matches had been.

The big one came one hour into the conversation when I said, "Jim, who am I going to be working with at the Clash of Champions? Terry told me it was going to be **Brian Pillman**." Jim said, "No, it's going to be **Ricky Morton**." I said, "But he's a heel." Jim said, "Yeah, I don't agree with the decision. **Dusty** was going to bring you in as a babyface." They had agreed to bring me back, but they were going to totally destroy anything I had left in the business. I really believe that it's a very personal situation with (WCW executive vice president) **Jim Herd** and **Jim Ross**. I don't put any of the blame on (WCW match-maker) **Dusty Rhodes**. I actually think **Dusty** went to bat for me to get me back in there. **Magnum** told me about putting **Pillman** over two weeks earlier, but I didn't care. I was happy I was going to be a heel. I knew they were saying, "Come on back, get your foot in the door and we'll

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see what happens from there." Now, what **Ross** tells me, is when I knew I'd been had by him and **Herd**.

AM: I remember one year ago, WCW let you go when you claimed you had an arm problem. One or two weeks later, you were wrestling again. After that, are you surprised WCW gave you a second chance?

EG: Not really. When the doctor checked me out for the last time, I thought I'd been railroaded. It was a company doctor, and he couldn't find anything wrong. The situation in Memphis was that to become booker, I had to wrestle. So I took a chance and did it. It was still the same pain.

But when I left WCW, there was more to it than that. My [personal life was involved. **Jim Ross** was very influential in my marriage break-up (with WCW announcer **Missy Hyatt**), which I'm very happy about now. But at the time, it was a very bad time in my life. My right shoulder was hurting. I was in a car wreck in 1983 and broke my neck, and ever since then I've got tingling down my neck and right shoulder. But I always wrestled with that. But at that time, everything was falling through. I still had my contract, and if I hadn't had been hurt, I would have been silly to leave when I was making that much money a week.

AM: Even though your character was stagnant?

EG: Yes. Just to want to get out of the contract, go home to Memphis and my shoulder -- that was all legitimate. They can think what they want to. I told **Jim Herd** that I was spinning my wheels here because of the creativity part of my life, because I eat, drink and breath professional wrestling. That's all I've ever wanted since I was five years old. But I said if I have to go back to somewhere like Memphis to prove myself as booker I will. He said he didn't understand why I had to do that. He got up and shook my hand, and said, "I just want you to know, you have not burned a bridge in WCW." And I left. This past year, when I got word they wanted me back, they came to me.

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Gilbert
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AM: There just seemed to be so much heat between you and Jim Herd ...

EG: Really, the heat started only a couple of months ago. I knew what was happening to me. I don't want to name names, but I think there are people there who want to block me from coming back, and make me unhappy if I do. But that's OK.

When I got off the phone (with Ross), I walked into another room where my brother, Doug, was. He looked at me and knew something was wrong, because I was so excited the week before. To me, the only way my character can be a babyface is after two years as a heel, then a switch. I can understand that. But I don't like being a babyface. I hate it. So I told my brother that. I mean, I've had my money cut by 1/3. It's my fault, but I'm coming back. Why continue to try and make me suffer? So, the more I thought about it, I said I wasn't going. On Aug. 3, I wrestled Cactus Jack in Philadelphia in a two-of-three fall match. On my way back, I knew I wasn't going to come back to let them tear me apart.

Jim Ross had also explained to me how they were going to push Cactus Jack to the top and push me to the bottom. That wasn't fair at all. The reason (Jack) got his start was, and we've talked about it, because of the matches we had and the write-ups they received. And he deserved it, because he's really worked hard. But that wasn't fair to me. That's them.

In the meantime ... people have to understand the relationship between Paul E. Dangerously and me. I met Paul when he was 14 or 15 years old when I was working in NY. I was 20. He was taking pictures. I remember the first time I was working Memphis, I saw he was managing a team called the Motor City Mad Men up there on some independent circuits. I said, "Wow, old Paul Heyman got involved in the wrestling business." In 1988, I brought him to Alabama with me. I made Paul my assistant booker. He not only helped me with ideas, but we became very good friends. It's very hard in wrestling to keep a friend -- period, whether it's you tag-team partner, your wife ... sooner or later, it seems a promotion will tear it apart or pit you against each other. We've always kept a close relationship, and everyone knows that. If anyone

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had to ask me who my best friend was, it would be Paul. Jim Ross and Jim Herd know that. Paul, when I was going back there, was excited. He had tried to get me back there for a while, and one of the first phone calls I got telling me I was wanted back was from him.

When I didn't go to the (Aug. 5) taping, I sent Jim Herd the plane ticket and a tape of me working heel -- I knew he hadn't seen me, because anytime I worked for WCW it was as a babyface.

AM: Isn't it sort-of amazing that guy who is in charge of a wrestling promotion and is supposed to watch video tape and scout talent hadn't seen that?

EG: Being around him, it doesn't surprise me at all. Here I am trying to give him a chance, and to give myself a chance. The tape had me working three heel matches -- one against Jeff Jarrett from Memphis, one against Jerry Stubbs from Continental and the other against Cactus Jack from Philadelphia. I asked if he had 20 or 30 minutes of his time, to watch it and let me know if he still wanted me to work as a babyface. I was just trying to give him examples of my work. But I never heard from him again.

Paul worked sometimes as a middleman for the whole thing, and I knew he must have taken some heat when I didn't come. But nothing was ever said to him. Then, all of a sudden, comes this situation (with Dangerously).

When I knew the situation was going to happen with the Global TV title and I would have it for sure, I called Jerry Lawler and told him I would have three weeks open. I've never had a great relationship with Jerry Jarrett. Almost all my dealings (in Memphis) are through Jerry Lawler. I told him we could do a title vs. title match, a tag-team match, whatever. He calls me back and says we'll do a title vs. title match. On the phone that day, when I was talking to him, I asked him if they were going to do a TV taping with WCW. That's all I knew. I didn't know he was going to work with Lex Luger. I found out later that Lawler was going to walk on to a WCW taping and challenge Luger. Paul didn't tell me, because I hadn't talked to Paul in 3 1/2 weeks before that. Somebody in the office did tell me, but all they knew was that it was a TV

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taping. I asked Lawler about the TV taping and he said, "How'd you know? How'd you find out?" I mean, I live in Atlanta, and the office is only a few miles up the road. That's when Lawler gets defensive and starts telling me, "That's what's wrong with the business. I ought to call up Jim Herd and have him fire whoever told you right now." But he calmed down, and that's when we started talking business about the title vs. title match. And I thought everything was fine. I got off the phone, and I didn't talk to him until the following Saturday, which was five days later. I did TV in Memphis that morning. Lawler didn't mention to me that he called Jerry Jarrett to have him call Jim Herd. I asked Jarrett about the WCW TV taping. Nobody had told me they were angry at me yet. Jarrett says, "Well, I don't know. You know that Jim Herd must be an idiot. He trusts that Jim Ross, and Jim Ross wants his job." I'm sitting there going, "Wow! Wow! Wow!" Then Jarrett says, "I don't think we're going to do the TV taping right now, but I don't know." Then he starts telling me what he would do if he was running (WCW).

AM: Isn't that a goal of his?

EG: Yes. So, I left that room and didn't mention anything more to Lawler, because I knew he was sensitive. I then went to my parent's house in Lexington to spend the weekend. Monday afternoon around 1 p.m. the phone rings at my parent's house, which is weird because nobody knows I'm there. It was Paul. He says, "I've been fired." I say, "For what?" He says, "For talking to you." I said, "What did you talk to me about?" And then he told me the story of how Herd put him on suspension for supposedly talking to me when he didn't. That's when I really got pissed off real bad. I hung up with him because he was all shook up. I knew then that's when something between Jerry Lawler and Jerry Jarrett was up. I called Lawler right then. I asked if he knew Jarrett called Jim Herd. He said he did. I asked if they called (the taping) off because I knew about it. He said, "Yeah, because we think too many people know about it now." I asked if he got Paul E. fired. He said he never even mentioned Paul's name, because he was trying to cover up. He said he would call Jarrett. That night, I got to

Memphis and Lawler comes in. He said, "I talked to Jerry Jarrett today, and he said nobody mentioned Paul's name." I said, "Well somebody has. It's either their side or your side. It's cost my friend his job. And now you're saying you've canceled the show. Nobody respects secretive stuff more than me. You know that. There's more to this. What is it?" But I let it go and didn't say anything else. I was supposed to team with him to go up against Billy Travis and a partner the next week. We finished the match, and I asked if he wanted me to be at TV Saturday. He said no, it would be better if I sent in an interview. I said, "Yeah, you're right. It would probably be better for the fans in Memphis not to know I'm back for a week or so." I was going to do an interview with Joe Pedicino where Joe says Global is letting me come to Memphis so I could be his partner. Lawler said it would work. Also, I was supposed to wrestle in Nashville, Louisville, Evansville Indiana later that week. As the week went on, I called Lawler back and more of the situation came up again about Paul. He said, "I'm glad they took care of it before these newsletters and stooge sheets found out about it." I said, "Everyone of them now is going to tell the story." He said, "Who's going to tell them?" That really got me. I said, "Lawler, Paul just lost his job. Don't you think he's going to tell them?" He said, "Well, they should have fired him then."

I asked Lawler if he still wanted me to do the interview for Saturday. He said he didn't know, because Jarrett hadn't booked the card. That's when I knew something was wrong, because I was booked for the two following Mondays. I actually knew something was wrong in Memphis because of Lawler. We've been friends for a long time, but I notice from time-to-time, that he's not straight forward with some people. He told me that Eddie Marlin and Eric Embry knocked our match from Monday. That was one of the best matches we've ever had. He asked me when the deadline was for the interview, and I told him tomorrow (Friday). He said he would let me know by 3 p.m. that afternoon. I still haven't heard from him, so I knew I wasn't on the card Monday night. I didn't go to Nashville Saturday night. If I would have worked those three shows, they could have paid me whatever they wanted. All of a sudden, the whole deal just exploded.

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Gilbert
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AM: I know Jarrett and Lawler are old-timers in regards to the wrestling business. Is this bad for the business? Are they sacrificing the USWA by stopping this TV taping?

EG: They're going to do the taping, but I think they're going to wait until after the 1st of the year. I really think Lawler and Jarrett are going to go crazy about this going out in the newsletters. They're old fashioned. They're just up there in Tennessee. I'd hate to see Jerry Jarrett in WCW, because all he knows about is running Tennessee. If you look back in the history of Jarrett -- when Lawler beat **Curt Hennig** for the AWA title, the ESPN slot, Lawler working at SuperClash with **Kerry Von Erich** -- Jarrett's goal was to get the ESPN time slot. Period. His goal was to get Verne (Gagne, AWA owner) out of the way, and make Lawler AWA champion. The thing to remember is that Lawler never did anything with the AWA title unless Jarrett was in power. They were kind of scared. They've screwed so many people in the past that they don't trust anybody they've worked with. Then it came time for Lawler to drop the belt to Larry Zbyszko. Lawler said no, and still has the belt. They screwed Verne. Jarrett didn't get the ESPN timeslot, so Lawler wouldn't drop the title back.

Next issue: The conclusion of the Eddie Gilbert interview, a report from Tallahassee on Florida's attempt to regulate pro wrestling, the return of the letters and advertisement pages (I promise), an updated Clash of the Champions lineup, and more. In future weeks, I hope to have an interview with George T. Zahorian. Stay tuned. The next issue will be mailed on Nov. 7. See y'all then.

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